



SIERRA
CLUB
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Yahi Group



News Articles Programs Hikes and Outings Meetings Events

Regional Habitat Conservation Plan Incomplete

As part of the Butte County General Plan update process, the Butte County Association of Governments (the transportation planning agency for Butte County) has prepared a regional Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Communities Conservation Plan to serve as a baseline of ecological data. However, the draft HCP/ NCCP excludes the upper foothills and mountains of Butte County!

The reasoning for this omission is that the valley has the most concentration of special status species and the most development pressure. The purpose for mapping wildlife habitat is to protect larger blocks of it while streamlining the process of developers obtaining the Incidental Take Permits required under the Endangered Species Act. The hope is to make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost effective.

The Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service have reportedly all approved the draft HCP / NCCP, as have all the cities in Butte County except for the town of Paradise. Most of the General Plan study areas decided upon by the county Board of Supervisors are not in the Paradise area; though the existing GP alternative shows more total new dwelling units for the Paradise region than for the other areas proposed for concentrated growth.

Fortuitously, other baseline ecological data will be used in developing the new county GP. Fish & Game is developing a Deer Herd Protection Plan, for example, and the nearby National Forests have habitat data they will share. However, not all of the special status species' habitat mapped with the HCP / NCCP ends at the current foothill boundary line; and as the following tables show,

Join the YAH! Blog

To keep up with local conservation news and concerns as they are happening, you can check the YAH! Blog at <http://yahinews.blogspot.com>. Make it a book mark so you can check easily and often.

Anyone who visits the blog can "comment" on an article. If you would like to be added to the list of authors who can "post" articles, send a note to yahinews@comcast.net.

As this paper comes to press, some of the topics under discussion are the M & T Mine, a lawsuit against Sierra Pacific Industries plan to clearcut in the Battle Creek watershed, changes to

there are quite a few special status species outside of that line.

Fish, Amphibian, Reptile, Bird, & Mammal Special Status Species in Butte County

Code from California Natural Diversity Database

- FE = Federally listed as Endangered
 FT = Federally listed as Threatened
 FS = Forest Service Sensitive
 SE = State-listed as Endangered
 ST = State listed as Threatened
 SC = Species of Concern, Nat. Marine Fish. Service
 SSC = Species of Special Concern, CD Fish & Game
 FP = Fully Protected, Calif. Dept. Fish & Game
 BCC = Birds of Conservation Concern, US F&WS
 AWL = Audubon Watch List

Butte Regional Habitat Conservation Plan & Natural Community Conservation Plan Draft (not including the invertebrates or plants)

FISH

- Central Valley Steelhead,
Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus FT, SSC
 Central Valley Fall-LF Run Chinook Salmon
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha FS, SC, SSC
 Central Valley Spring Run Chinook Salmon
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha FT, ST
 Central Valley Winter-run Chinook,
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha FE, SE
 Green Sturgeon,
Acipenser medirostris FT, SC, SSC
 River Lamprey
Lampetra ayresii SSC
 Sacramento Splittail
Pogonichthys macrolepidotus SSC

AMPHIBIANS

- California Red-legged Frog

- Rana draytonii* FT, SSC
 California Tiger-Salamander
Ambystoma californiense FT, SSC
 Foothill Yellow-legged Frog
Rana boylei FS, SSC
 Western Spadefoot Toad
Spea hammondi SSC

REPTILES

- California Horned Lizard
Phrynosoma coronatum SSC
 Giant Garter Snake
Thamnophis gigas FT, ST
 Northwestern Pond Turtle
Actinemys marmorata marmorata FS, SSC

BIRDS

- American Peregrine Falcon
Falco peregrinus anatum FS, SE, BCC
 Bald Eagle
Haliaeetus leucocephalus SE
 Bank Swallow
Riparia riparia ST
 California Black Rail
Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus ST, FP, BCC, AWL
 Greater Sandhill Crane
Grus canadensis tabida FS, ST, FP
 Swainson's Hawk
Buteo swainsoni FS, ST, BCC, AWL
 Tri-Colored Blackbird
Agelaius tricolor SSC, BCC, AWL
 Western Burrowing Owl
Athene cunicularia SSC, BCC

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Yahi Volunteer Opportunities

Multiple Spring events are coming! Many will provide avenues for volunteering in Yahi area activities.

April is "Earth Month" on the California State University, Chico campus. Many lectures, hikes, and programs will be offered at no/low cost to the general public. Your club will be co-hosting, with the Environmental Action Resource Center (EARC), a John Muir Birthday celebration. This happy salute to our Founder typically includes students in costume depicting John Muir and Theodore Roosevelt AND a gorgeously decorated cake to eat! This is a fun tabling opportunity for all who are interested in helping to promote the Sierra Club's past, present and future!

Also in April, don't forget to come out to the Chico State "Ecofest." Free music representing various styles and cultures plus local environmental groups presenting information makes for a fun and informative family-friendly outing. It's another tabling opportunity. Enjoy the Festival and help the club!

Butte Environmental Council's "Endangered Species Faire" will be held in early May. The Yahis traditionally have a booth with children's activities and various information available in a conservation promoting atmosphere. While it can be a little windy at times under the club canopy, being at the Faire more than compensates! It's a

positive forum to advance the Sierra Club goals of exploring, protecting, and enjoying the Planet.

Other recurrent opportunities are available for volunteering. If you have any particular life experience that could assist in formulating the club's development, criticism, and/or response to the County and Cities general plans, habitation conservation plans, and conservation/mitigation bank proposals, PLEASE contact anyone on the Executive Committee. The Yahis table the second Saturday of the month (weather permitting) at the Chico Farmer's Market. There is also a seasonal need for help with local hiking and skiing trail maintenance. And last but not least, did you know that your photographs might be invaluable in protecting our group's five-county area? Everyone's encouraged to take photos of the good, bad and ugly for posterity's sake. If you can take shots of the same area over time that could be great documentary evidence. Otherwise, take your best shot and share it with the rest of us!

Volunteering is fun! You can meet new people in a supportive setting. All new volunteers will be teamed with a more experienced club member. While no one will be required to "re-invent the wheel," new ideas are always welcome! Volunteers willing to help are appreciated and encouraged to contact anyone on the Executive Committee for more information and scheduling. Working together, we can accomplish more!

Finally, many thanks to all of the dedicated volunteers for their help in making this year's Snow Goose Festival exhibit such a success! Despite braving daunting weather conditions,

About This Newsletter

SIERRA CLUB YAH! GROUP NEWSLETTER is published quarterly in March, June, September and December by the Yahi Group of the Sierra Club, Post Office Box 2012, Chico, CA 95927 or 5590 Feather River Place, Paradise, CA 95969, Attn: Louise Casey.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to Yahi Group of the Sierra Club, Post Office Box 2012, Chico, CA 95927 or 5590 Feather River Place, Paradise, CA 95969, Attn: Louise Casey.

The newsletter is mailed free to all current members of the Sierra Club residing in the Yahi Group area. It is also available, without charge, at selected public places and merchants in the Yahi Group area.

For submissions, comments and inquiries, please write to Sierra Club, Post Office Box 2012, Chico, CA 95927 or contact the content editor Susan Sears at 530-532-0149 or the copy editor Louise Casey at 530-872-9159.

For advertising in the Newsletter, please call John Woods (530-899-8607). For changes in membership address (which also affects the address for receiving the newsletter by mail) please write to Sierra Club Member Services, Post Office Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80328-2968; sending a mailing label for the old address will speed the process.

Submission Guidelines:

Please include name, phone, and address with each submittal. Short, single topic articles are preferred. Deadlines for proposed articles and letters to the editor: February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1. A one week extension is available if the submission is sent by e-mail and advance advisory has been provided that the article is forthcoming. Submissions will be returned if specifically requested

Sierra Club Contacts In the Yahi Group

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She will relay inquiries or comments to the appropriate person.

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"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense."—John Muir

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Membership Categories	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.



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P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, CO 80322-2968

In Memoriam - Dr. Joseph Abbott,



We were deeply saddened by the passing of our long-time contributor Joe Abbott on November 25, 2007. He was a deeply dedicated man who led a very interesting life and always cared about our environment. We have included portions of his obituary here. We shall miss you, Joe!

Born in Paterson, New Jersey on August 9, 1933 to one of the city's pioneer families, Joe's wide-ranging intellect and deep faith were nurtured by his Jesuit schooling at St. Peter's Prep and St. Peter's College in Jersey City, NJ and Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, DC.

His medical training took him to Boston City Hospital in 1959, where he met the love of his life, Alice Ryan, to whom he was married for 47 years. His other medical residencies were in Philadelphia, Jersey City, New York City, and Washington, DC, where he served as Captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He was most inspired by his fellowship at the Hammersmith Hospital in London and a sabbatical at Oxford University's Magdalene College.

Drawn to the Bay Area in 1966 by his wife's family ties, Joe spent most of his career as Professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. His colleagues remember him for his enthusiastic embrace of new techniques, such as nuclear imaging, well before they were commonly accepted. He also established a private practice from 1979 to 1984, managed by Alice, in Bishop, California, where he was known for his conscientious care.

In his retirement, Joe became an effective activist in the northern Sierra Nevada mountains, where he and Alice have a second residence. Most recently, he introduced and implemented access for disabled people to public and other buildings in Plumas County. He also collaborated with Alice to champion the environmentally sensitive use of local water and land resources, fueled by a love of the area rooted in frequent family hikes.

A 40-year member of San Francisco's Dolphin Swimming and Rowing Club, Joe swam regularly in the Bay. He participated in swims across San Francisco's Golden Gate and from Alcatraz to San Francisco, as well as "polar bear" and "over-60" swims. In Bishop, he relished the challenge of navigating the Eastern Sierra winds as a recreational pilot. Later, he achieved an airplane instrument rating and joined the University of California flying club.

Joe's interest in history prompted travels to Burma, China, Tasmania, the Yukon Territory, Crete, Morocco, Turkey and Mexico. An avid genealogist, he traced his family's origins back to the 1600s, and found great pleasure in reuniting with long-lost relatives and childhood friends. He also loved gardening and butterflies.

He will be remembered for his humor and

The Times They Are A'Changin' Conservation in the News

M & T Gravel Mine

Some good news in the conservation department! The Yahi Group has been supporting the ultimately successful efforts to keep Baldwin Corporation from mining gravel in southwest Chico. We congratulate Maria Phillips and the huge number of people who were actively opposed to the project and its projected impact on traffic, road, air, water, wildlife, and more. We wrote to the Butte County Board of Supervisors, made a presentation to that board and attended their meetings. Our letter opposing the project was published in the *Chico Enterprise Record*. Baldwin won't lose any jobs in this defeat, as they have safer places to mine gravel both inside and outside of the County, and we will be able to spare our school children and other pedestrians from dozens of daily truck trips through downtown Chico.

Global Warming

We have a GREAT OPPORTUNITY to reduce the rate of global warming by getting involved with our county or community General Plans. Several Yahi members have been attending Butte County and Chico General Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan meetings - including Laura Grossman, (the new Yahi chair), Marcia Toruno, Mary Watters, and myself. We want everyone to remain vigilant. Make sure that the planners and our elected officials hear from club members about the need -- BEFORE making any residential and commercial building plans -- to first take stock of and then protect our waterways, air, open spaces, and other ecological treasures. Wherever you live, urge: a halt to urban sprawl and big box stores, the financing of sustainable mass transit, the planting and maintenance of tree canopies, the creation of walkable and bike-friendly neighborhood centers (with schools, parks, stores, community meeting houses), and sustainable e.g., LEED certified, buildings. "Compact design" is a new motto for many club members who advocate urban infill and building

Earth Month: April 2008-Chico State

Earth Month is a month-long celebration of the environment that involves Chico State student groups and the Chico community in a variety of workshops, panels, discussions and events focusing on environmental awareness and sustainable progress. Check <http://www.aschico.com/earthmonth> for more details.

This year Chico State will host over 60 events in just 30 days showcasing this year's theme; Its Not Just a Green Thing. Among these events is Eco-Fest, an all day affair on April 19th featuring live music, eco-friendly vendors, kid's

up -- rather than out to more highways, ranchettes, and Big Box stores.

Dyer Mountain Development

As I write this, our Club is awaiting news regarding the financial and legal problems of the developer Dyer Mountain Associates, while hoping that we will not have to go to court to fight their massive, poorly planned four season resort on pristine acres near Westwood and Lake Almanor. The "Sacramento Bee" has been covering the story. We also are supporting our very dedicated forestry volunteers, such as Trish Puterbaugh, Jim Brobeck, and Stephen Sayre. Major efforts involve reducing clear cutting and stopping OHV (off highway vehicle) abuse in forest lands.

Bidwell Ranch

The pet project of the local Yahi Group members for many years has been preserving Bidwell Ranch (750 acres --- next to Upper Bidwell Park) from development. River Partners has a contract to form a management plan for a mitigation or conservation bank (there are big differences), and several club members have been very active in voicing their concerns, i.e., that these plans allow for maximum protection of the land's rich biological diversity. Particularly involved have been Betty Volker, Hilary Locke, and Pat Kelly. Bob Woods and I have also been representing the club at the meetings. Of special value to you might be the website <http://www.riverpartners.org/> where you can see what planning is taking place. Then, contact River Partners' Dan Efsaaff or Colleen Martin, or else, City of Chico's Senior Planner Brendan Vieg, with your own ideas and concerns.

Reports about other conservation issues with which members are involved will be in future editions of this newsletter.

Let's take action to conserve the planet's

New YAH! Group Trail Guide Now Available

35 GREAT HIKES IN AND AROUND BUTTE COUNTY

The Yahi Group's new trail guide is now on sale. The hikes in this book are all within a relatively easy day's drive of the selected starting point of the Chico Park and Ride (Hwy 99 & Hwy 32). Included are trips to waterfalls, lakes, rugged canyons and gorges, secluded forests, peaks and wildflower-filled meadows. Each hike was selected by long-time trail guides of the Sierra Club Yahi Group.

The book has a mixture of easy to reach, in-town, local trips and more distant treks to wild places. This second edition of the guide has carried forward several hikes from the original guide and added more than 20 new hikes. All proceeds from sale of the book will go to the Sierra Club Yahi Group.

Cost: \$10 plus shipping if bought directly

YAH! Programs, March-May 2008

Thursday, March 13, Yahi member Marv Gold will show his slides on "Botswana and Zambia on Safari."

Thursday, April 10, Yahi member and junior high school teacher Mary Ann Pella will show her slides of Eastern Greenland where she was part of a study on Little Auks in the summer of 2007.

Wednesday, May 7, Rex Burress will show his slides on "The Wonders of the Feather River."

The meetings will take place from 7 to 9 PM, refreshments will be served, and the public is welcome. Please note that the March and April meetings will take place at the Chico Public Library, East 1st Avenue and Sherman Avenue in Chico, and the May meeting will be at the Oroville Public

Yahi Group Outings Spring 2008

On-Going Tuesday Volleyball. Join Yahi Group members and friends for friendly, co-ed volleyball every Tuesday night at 7PM at the Chapman Center (corner of E. 16th Street and B Street in Chico). Cost: \$4 per night. Free lessons included. For more information call Karen, 899-8305 or Betty, 345-7205.

Weekly Park Bike Ride/Walk (grade 2, class A). Beginning in March meet at the Chico Park & Ride each Tuesday evening at 6:30PM for a 1 ½ hour bike ride along the creek. Walkers welcome for self-organized walk. Helmet and bike light required. Also bring water and a flashlight. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980

March 2008

Saturday, March 1 – Cross Country Ski, Heart Lake Wilderness (grade 1, class B) This is for people who have their own ski equipment. Bring ski gear, lunch, water, appropriate clothing and \$ for drivers. Unusual weather or snow conditions may change destination. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8AM. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

Saturday, March 8 – Wildlife Kayak Paddle 1/2 Day (3 miles, flat water) Leisurely paddle on the calm cool waters of the North Forebay, Oroville. You must have your own canoe or kayak and wear a PFD to attend. Warm clothing, sunscreen, hat, and binoculars are recommended. Limited to the first 15 boats to sign-up with the leader. There is a \$4 entrance fee and there are picnic tables, BBQs, and shady grass areas for your enjoyment after the event. Meet at the boat ramp at 830 AM. Leader: Dave Garcia, 533-2357 or rangerdave@mynvw.com.

Saturday, March 8 – Cross Country Ski McGowen Trails (grade 1, class A). An easy-paced moderate length ski on some of the new trails. Bring ski gear, lunch, water, appropriate clothing and \$ for drivers. Unusual weather or snow conditions may change destination. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8:30AM. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

Sunday, March 9 – Peace Valley, Sutter Buttes Hike (grade 2, class B). Come explore California's newly acquired Peace Valley, remotely sequestered behind the hilly ramparts of the north side of the Sutter Buttes. On this ranger-led hike we should see wildflowers, Indian artifacts and remains of pioneer settlements more than 100 years old. An approximately 6 mile hike with uneven ground which may be wet. Bring boots, lunch, water, carpool \$\$ and \$4 per car entrance fee. Limited to 25 participants. Call leader to reserve your space. Return time around 4:30PM. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 7:45AM. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980.

Thurs. March 13: Yahi member Marv Gold will show his slides on "Botswana and Zambia on Safari". The meeting will take place at the Chico Public Library, East 1st Avenue and Sherman Avenue, from 7 - 9 p.m. and refreshments will be served. Yahi program meetings are open to the public. For further information call 343-9277.

Saturday, March 15th - Hike South Rim Trail Upper Park ,Chico (grade 2, class A). This is a car shuttle trip. We will meet at the Five Mile recreation/ picnic area in Upper Park at 1PM and car pool up to the green gate. The hike is approximately 6 miles. Wear hiking boots, bring a

snack and money for carpool drivers. There is a possibility of spring flowers, bring a flower field guide if you like. Rain will cancel the hike. Leader John, 872-8258; Asst. Leader: Betty, 345-7205.

Saturday, March 15 – Cross Country Ski, Heart Lake Wilderness (grade 1, class B) This is for people who have their own ski equipment. Bring ski gear, lunch, water, appropriate clothing and \$ for drivers. Unusual weather or snow conditions may change destination. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8:30AM. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

Sunday, March 16 - Bike Ride to Chico Airport (grade 2, class A) Meet at 11:00 AM at the Chico Nut Company, Esplanade & 11th Ave. (park on E 10th Ave by Chico Nut Company parking lot). We'll take the nearby bike path to the Airport. While eating lunch by the runway we'll watch planes take off and land. Round trip ride of 8 miles. Helmets required. Bring water and lunch. Rain cancels. Leader: Gene, 873-1552; Asst. Leader: Carla, 891-6977.

Saturday, March 22- Full Moon Paddle (3 mile, flat water) Bring your own canoe or kayak for a leisurely paddle on the calm cool waters of the North Forebay, Oroville. Learn some constellations and observe some satellites. You must have warm clothing, a flashlight, and wear a PFD to attend. Limited to the first 12 boats to sign-up with the leader. There is a \$4 entrance fee. Meet at the boat ramp at 6PM. Leader: Dave Garcia 533-2357 or rangerdave@mynvw.com.

Saturday, March 22 – Table Mountain Hike (grade 2, class A). Enjoy the spectacular wildflowers, views and waterfalls on this 6-8 mile hike. Bring plant guide, camera, lunch, water and sturdy footwear. Rain cancels. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 9 AM. Return time around 4 PM. Leader: Julian, 893-1994; Asst. Leader: Alan, 891-8789.

Saturday, March 29 – Cross Country Ski Lassen Park Road (grade 2, class A). This is for fit skiers who own their ski equipment. Bring ski gear, lunch, water, appropriate clothing and \$ for drivers. Unusual weather or snow conditions may change the destination. Meet at the Chico Park & Ride at 8:30AM. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

Saturday & Sunday, March 29-30 – Antelope Creek Day Hike or Backpack (grade 2, class A). We'll hike the beautiful wildflower-strewn trail from High Trestle down to the old settler's camp near McClure Place and Antelope Creek. Those doing the day hike will continue on to end of the trail and be shuttled back. Those backpacking will camp by the beautiful creek and return by the same route the next day. Individual commissary for backpack. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 9 AM (for a 120-mile round-trip drive), Hog Lake parking lot at 10AM (off Hwy 36 east of Red Bluff) or at Payne's Creek store about 10:30AM. Rain cancels. Call leaders in advance to sign-up. Leader: Alan (backpack), 891-8789 or ajmendoza@prodigy.net or Bill (day hike), 527-8203 (Red Bluff)

April 2008

Yahi Group's General Outing Information

The following information is intended for people who have decided to take or are contemplating an outing that has been organized by the Yahi Group of the Sierra Club. The information is based on the Group's established policy (available from the web site or from the Outings Committee Chair); it will be supplemented by trip specific information and by the outing leader.

Updates: Updated outings information can be found on our web site at <http://www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/>

Transportation: There is an active interest in car pooling, but leaders cannot organize car pools to Sierra Club outings. All trips begin and end at the trailhead, which is not necessarily the initial meeting place. Any car pool arrangements are private agreements between the driver and the passengers.

Riders are expected, as a matter of courtesy, to reimburse drivers to cover the transportation expenses of the trip. The customary amount is 10 cents per mile per passenger depending on the vehicle, the number of passengers and the road conditions. For example, one passenger only should pay the driver a little more and a car full of passengers should pay a little less. This is only a guideline.

Membership in Sierra Club not required: Outings are open to the general public unless otherwise indicated. If you enjoy the outings, it is hoped that you will see the value of joining; application information is available in this newsletter or on the website.

Fees and costs: Occasionally an outing announcement will indicate a cost. Unless the announcement specifically indicates that outing is a fund raiser, the cost indicated is only that which has been estimated to cover trip expenses. **Non-Sierra Club members are asked to make a \$2 donation if attending an outing to help defray our costs for outings**

Sign-up: Most activities do not require advance sign-up; it is merely necessary to show up at the designated time and place. For those outings where advance sign-up is requested, a call to the leader will initiate the procedure. If fees or deposits are needed, the sign-up is not considered complete until those have been paid. Deposits may not be refundable; please inquire at time of making payment.

Outing Waivers: All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you chose to participate on an outing, please go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

All activities: These are group outings. It is important that participants follow the instructions of the outing leader. Please be sure you are in adequate physical condition to undertake the activity you choose (see classifications for guidance). If you are unsure of the difficulty of the trip or of your ability, check with the leader before deciding to go. The outing leader may decide to disallow the participation of an outing applicant if the leader concludes that the applicant's reduced preparation or capability may negatively affect the outing for the rest of the group.

Hiking and Day Activities: Bring lunch, water, and essentials, as well as reimbursement money for your driver. Wear boots or sturdy shoes.

Dos and Don'ts: Plan to carry out anything you carry in. Pets are not allowed unless the trip specifically indicates "pets permitted". No firearms. No electronic music devices.

Young people: Please consult with the leader for a decision as to whether the outing is appropriate for a youth, whether accompanied by an adult or not. Any person under 18 not accompanied by a parent must have a written parental authorization to give to the outing leader. Forms may be obtained in advance from the outing leader or from the Outings Committee Chair at 891-8789. The completed form is required to provide for emergency medical care if needed.

Errors in the schedule: If there is incorrect information in an outings announcement, please see the web site at <http://www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/> or call Skip Augur at 894-1366 to obtain a correction.

Suggestions and Comments welcome:

Any comments on the outings or suggestions for future ones are always welcome.
Mail to Alan Mendoza; 6 Patches Drive, Chico, CA 95928 or e-mail ajmendoza@prodigy.net.

Saturday, April 5 – Wildflower Walk on the Bidwell Ranch Property (grade 1, class A). A slow stroll through the grasses, spring flowers and vernal pools on the City of Chico's Bidwell Ranch property. The docent-led tour will start at 1PM at the east end of the Wildwood Park parking lot (at the entrance to Upper Bidwell Park). Tour will last about 1.5 hours. Tour will last about 1.5 hours. Don't forget your favorite flower field guide, sunscreen and boots or old shoes (the ground is usually wet). The wildflower walk is a joint effort with Butte Environmental Council, Bidwell Ranch Conservancy and Yahi Group/Sierra Club. Leader: Betty 345-7205; Asst. Leader: Pat Kelly.

Sunday, April 6 - Butte College Wildlife Area Hike (Grade 1, Class A) Walk around the hidden natural areas of the campus with stream side forest, wetlands and grasslands. We'll have a faculty member to guide us. Bring lunch (no food service open), water and money for car pool. Meet at 8:00AM at Chico Park & Ride. Leader: Carla, 891-6977; Asst. Leader: Alan, 891-8789.

Thurs. April 10: Yahi member and Jr. High School teacher, Mary Ann Pella, will show her slides of Eastern Greenland where she was part of a study on Little Auks the summer of 2007. The meeting will take place at the Chico Public Library, East 1st Avenue and Sherman Avenue, from 7 - 9 p.m. and refreshments will be served. Yahi program meetings are open to the public. For further information call 343-9277.

Saturday, April 12 – Deer Creek Hike (grade 2, class B). *Experience the full spring beauty of the Deer Creek trail in a 5-6 mile round-trip hike. Deer Creek in spring offers several small waterfalls as we pass through the newly green buds of Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and incense cedar. Bring lunch, water, carpool \$ and a camera. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 9AM. Leader: Julian, 893-1994.*

Directions to Meeting Places For Yahi Outings

Chico Park and Ride: From Highways 99 and 32, go east on 32 and make an immediate left onto Fir Street (it's only about 100 yards from Highway 99). We meet in the lot closest to the freeway.

Oroville Wal-Mart: Exit Highway 70 at Oro Dam Blvd., go east one block. Wal-Mart is on south side of Oro Dam Blvd. at Feather River Blvd. We meet at the northwest corner of the parking lot.

Paradise SaveMart: The parking lot is at the corner of Wagstaff and Clark Roads; we meet in the northwest corner.

Wildwood parking lot: Take East Avenue or Manzanita to Wildwood Avenue, the entrance to Upper Bidwell Park.

Sierra Club Hike Classifications

These are general guidelines. If there are questions, ask the outing leader.

Distance Rating

Grade 1: up to 6 miles

Grade 2: 6-10 miles

Sunday, April 13 – Flume Walk (grade 2, class A). Come to Paradise to walk the flat, lovely flume trail overlooking the west branch of the Feather River. The 6 mile trek takes us alongside and above the rushing flume, sometimes perched on the edge of the canyon. Not recommended for those afraid of heights or of walking on a narrow walkway above rushing water. A fairly rough, dirt road down to the flume. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8:30 AM or at SE corner of Clark Road and Wagstaff at 9AM (by shopping center). Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980.

Saturday, April 19– Feather Falls Hike (grade 2, class B). Come enjoy the 6th highest waterfall in the U.S. and the beautifully flowered and shaded, 8-9 mile round trip trail to it. We'll take the lower trail to the overlook, then go above the falls for lunch by the creek and return via the upper trail. Please wear boots or sturdy hiking shoes and bring lunch, water and carpool \$\$\$. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8AM or at the NW corner of the Oroville Wal-Mart parking lot at 8:35AM. Leader: Julian: 893-1994; Asst. Leader: Michelle, 865-9491.

Monday April 21 - Celebrate John Muir's birthday at Cocodine Thai Restaurant, Meet at Cocodine in the northeast corner of the Skyway Raley's parking lot by 6:00 P.M.. Excellent food and conversation in honor of the Sierra Club founder's birthday. Please call John by Saturday, April 19th so I can reserve a space big enough for all of us, 872-8258.

Saturday - Sunday April 26 & 27 - Ishi Wilderness Backpack, (Grade 1, Class A) Meet at the Chico Park and Ride at 9:00 A.M. or Cohasset Store at 9:45 for an easy backpack into the Ishi Wilderness. We'll pick an easily accessible camp near water. Share the history of the area where the Yahi's laid in wait for travelers on the Lassen Trail. Individual commissary. I will coordinate sharing of equipment if necessary. Bring typical backpack gear, boots or trail shoes, your favorite foods, and \$ for drivers. Some high clearance vehicles needed. Please call in advance. John 872-8258 hubhollister@yahoo.com

Saturday, April 26- Exploring Diversion Canal Paddle (5 mile, flat water) Bring your own canoe or kayak and PFD for an adventure paddle. Sunscreen, hat, binoculars, water, lunch or snack are recommended. Limited to the first 15 boats to sign-up with the leader. Meet at the restrooms at 8:30AM next to Diversion Pool off of Cherokee Rd. Leader: Dave Garcia 533-2357 or rangerdave@mynvw.com.

Sunday, April 27 – Sacramento River Loop Bike Ride (grade 2, class A). A flat, leisurely 15 mile round trip past orchards along Sacramento Avenue to the Sacramento River and return to Chico on River Road. Bring lunch and water. Helmet required. Meet at Subway Restaurant, corner of W. Sacramento Ave. and Nord Avenue at 10AM. Leader: Gene, 873-1552; Asst. Leader: Carla, 891-6977.

May 2008

Sunday, May 4 - Yahi Group Trail Maintenance Committee Organizational Meeting. If you enjoy trail maintenance and are a Sierra Club member living within 50 miles of Chico, please call Stephen, 876-1391, for the time and place of a meeting to start prioritizing where our energy is best invested.

Wednesday, May 7 - YAH! Program Meeting at the Oroville Public Library. Rex Burress will show his slides on "The Wonders of the Feather River". The meeting is open to the public. Directions: Highway 70 to Montgomery Street exit, east to Lincoln and turn right. Or exit at Oro Dam, east to Lincoln and turn left. Library is on NE corner of Lincoln and Mitchell. For further information call 343-9277.

Saturday May 10 - Mountain Bike Paradise Lake, (grade 2, class A) A seven mile round trip along the road that follows Paradise Lakes eastern shore. This is a fairly flat, dirt road experience. We'll probably see ducks, geese, and fishermen. It is the kind of ride that exercises you but allows you to talk with your riding companions. Helmets are required. Bring well maintained bicycle, spare tube, pump, lunch and water. We'll meet in the northeast corner of the Save Mart/KMart parking lot at Clark Road and Wagstaff at 9:30 A. M. We should leave the lake (45 minutes from Chico) by 3:00 P.M. Please call John at 872-8258 or hubhollister@yahoo.com

Sunday, May 11 – Sacramento River Bend Hike Through Varied Terrain (grade 2, class A). If there's a chance of sunshine we'll meander up river past Yana caves, rolling hills of wildflowers, lush riparian habitat and dramatic bluff-top

views almost to Inks Creek and back. Expect to encounter poison oak, too, as well as some rocky and muddy stretches (long pants, long sleeves and sturdy boots highly recommended) on this 7 mile, 5 ½ hour hike with a lunch stop at Massacre Flat gravel bar. Meet at Paradise Save-Mart at 8:30AM or Chico Park & Ride at 9 AM for the 50 mile drive to Bend Bridge by 10:15AM, then to the Perry Riffle trailhead by 10:45AM. Don't forget your camera! Leader: Stephen, 876-1391.

Saturday, May 17- Moonlight Paddle (3 miles, flat water) Bring your own canoe or kayak for a leisurely paddle on the calm cool waters of the North Forebay, Oroville. Learn about the Ponzo Illusion, constellations, and satellites. You must have warm clothing, a flashlight, and wear PFD to attend. Limited to the first 12 boats to sign-up with the leader. There is a \$4 entrance fee. Meet at the boat ramp at 6PM. Leader: Dave Garcia 533-2357 or rangerdave@mynvw.com.

Sunday, May 18 – Chico Mural Walk & Lunch (grade 1, class A). Stroll around downtown Chico to view the many innovative murals followed by a group lunch at a downtown restaurant. Cost: lunch only. Meet on the steps of Chico City Hall (Main St. & 4th St.) at 10AM. Leader: Carla, 891-6977; Asst. Leader: Gene, 873-1552.

Thursday, May 22 – Sierra Club Newsletter Folding. Join us to help fold and sort the newsletter for mailing; it only takes about an hour, and we always have a lot of fun! Volunteers are always needed: newcomers and old members are both welcome. Call 343-9277 for directions and more info.

Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (continued from p. 1)

Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo

Coccyzus americanus occidentalis FC, SE, FS, BCC

White-tailed Kite

Elanus leucurus FP

Yellow-Breasted Chat

Icteria virens SSC

Southeast Paradise Area Specific Plan

(has potential habitat for)

California Red-legged Frog

Rana aurora draytonii FT, SSC

Foothill Yellow-legged Frog

Rana boylei FS, SSC

Northwestern Pond Turtle

Actinemys marmorata marmorata FS, SSC

Cooper's hawk

Accipiter cooperii SSC

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Accipiter striatus SSC

Northern Goshawk

Accipiter gentilis FS, SSC

Vaux' Swift

Chaetura vauxi SSC

Pallid Bat

Antrozous pallidus FS, SSC

Western Mastiff Bat

Eumops perotis californicus SSC

(continued on p. 6)

Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration Forest Highway 171 Reconstruction Project (July 2005)

58 special-status wildlife species were identified as having the potential to occur in the project vicinity, including 8 bird species that may occasionally forage or migrate through the project area.

American Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus anatum FS, SE, BCC

Black Swift

Cypseloides niger SSC, AWL

Vaux's Swift

Chaetura vauxi SSC

Rufous Hummingbird

Selasphorus rufus BCC, AWL

Lewis' Woodpecker

Melanerpes lewis BCC, AWL

Willow Flycatcher

Empidonax traillii SE, AWL

Oak Titmouse

Baeolophus inornatus AWL

Lawrence's Goldfinch

Carduelis lawrencei BCC, AWL

Lassen National Forest Land & Res. Mgmt. Plan (1992, updated from Calif. Natural Diversity Database)

Bald Eagle

Haliaeetu leucocephalus SE

Bank Swallow

Riparia riparia ST

California Spotted Owl

Strix occidentalis occidentalis FS, SSC, AWL

Great Gray Owl

Strix nebulosa SE, FS

Northern Spotted Owl

Strix occidentalis caurina FT, AWL

Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus anatum SE, FP

Willow Flycatcher

Empidonax traillii SE, FS

Pacific Fisher

Martes pennanti FS, FC, SSC

American Marten

Martes americana FS

Sierra Nevada Red Fox

Vulpes vilpes necatur FS, ST

For important reasons why the HCP / NCCP should be county-wide, see the Report of the Independent Science Advisors, which is available for download at <http://www.buttehpc.com/>, along with the Admin Draft Ecological Baseline Report and the Admin Draft Habitat Models.

Page 10 of the Science Advisors Report states, "The advisors are concerned that the plan is excluding upper elevation portions of the county, which precludes planning for entire

Yahi ExCom Meetings

Yahi Group Executive Committee meetings usually will be held the **first Tuesday of every month from 3PM to 5PM**. Please contact Laura Grossman at joebass@outrageous.net or 893-3882

regarding the specific time and place if you would like to attend and if you have an item you would

What is Natural?

Lori Dieter, eminent Naturalist at Gray Lodge Wildlife Refuge, was quoted in "InnerView 2007" as saying, "This land is intensely managed. There is no longer such a thing as natural."

I suspect Lori was speaking of Gray Lodge, which IS intensely managed. Even the great agricultural fields of the Sacramento Valley have been overturned, and even the mountains have been criss-crossed by roads and houses. However, there must be some aspects of nature that are still "natural," whether in the mountains, city parks, or even at the water-controlled marshes.

In this age when there are a host of "natural" food products, and you can "act natural," etc., just what is meant by "natural" when applied to nature? Webster's has nearly half a page devoted to the word natural, and you have to dig nearly to the bottom to find it as related to nature. Even "naturalism" is given more space than "naturalist."

One definition of natural is "growing without human care." Now there are plenty of natural invasive weeds that flourish without care. Another, "living in or as if in a state of nature untouched by the influence of civilization or society." In that aspect, we could call natural a "wilderness," or "wild."

Is there any longer such a thing as natural? No doubt the entire planet has felt the step of man, and his machines have sent their clamor into the deepest recesses of Earth. Airplane noise can reach the most remote Amazonian forest.

Perhaps we should look upon natural in terms of wild and natural segments. We certainly can find plenty of wild places, such as beside a waterfall, a nook in the river, a rocky outcropping, places where plants and animals are living naturally without any help from humans. Even Gray Lodge has some neat willow and cottonwood where birds nest in traditional style. The coots create a corner in the cattails, unconcerned that the marshes get mowed, plowed, and burned in season. In fact, many animals take advantage of man's constructions to find shelter or build nests. The swallows are addicted to bridges, and man-made wood duck boxes attract a following where a family is hatched in a rather unnatural crevice.

Lori is right in saying there's no such thing as "natural," at least in landscape, as there was in the days before European colonization when Lewis and Clark explored. There has been extensive alteration, and it was changing even in the days of John Muir when he roamed Yosemite in 1869. Even then, hogs and sheep were herded into the highlands to devastate the lovely meadows. Forests have been cut down, streams diverted, fields plowed, and meadows grazed, until nearly all is alteration. Even the wild and free geysers in Yellowstone are rimmed with boardwalks. Yosemite is a maze of man-made trails and hammered rocks. Campgrounds rim the river. Yet, there is plenty of nature in America, growing on its own, forests regenerating if allowed, birds flying free, and deer often succeeding beyond desirability.

But here is the wonderful part: nature is very flexible and adaptable to new situations. A pristine habitat can be razed, yet given time and protection, nature will return in all her green glory and wild animal variety. As long as there is space, water, and sunlight, all is not lost, in spite of

Off-Road Vehicle Damage on Public and Private Lands

Summer and fall of 2007 have seen multiple OHV damage in Colby Meadows (east of Butte Meadows). Most of the damage was done by ATVs and some by 4x4s. Each infraction has been photographed, and Lassen National Forest has been notified. LNF has stacks of photos and files of damage to meadows, creeks and hillsides, and vandalized gates and barricades.

This is a national problem, covering areas as diverse as the Outer Islands of North Carolina, the Florida Everglades, Death Valley National Park and Anza Borrego State Park. During the rainy season, 4x4s can be seen damaging public and private lands just east of Chico along Humboldt Road between Bruce Road and Highway 32.

There is an organization called Tread Lightly, which was founded by the U.S. Forest Service in the mid-1980s and became a separate non-profit in the early 1990s. If you check out their website, www.treadlightly.org, you will see that most of their funding comes from OHV manufacturers. A lot of the information is very "light." On the other hand, they do have the ear of the OHV industry.

I have spoken with Tread Lightly about the problems in advertising, such as wheel spinning, wheel stands, "big air" and other resource-damaging stunts. They talk to the companies and ad agencies about this, and are usually ignored. What they do listen to is mail from potential customers, and that's where we come in.

Send a letter or email to Tread Lightly, 298 E. 24th St., Ogden, UT 84401 or monica@treadlightly.com.

Include in your letter: (1) the name of the company; (2) a brief description of the ad; (3) type of media where you saw it (TV, magazine, etc.). Quite often you may see a fine-print disclaimer that might say, "professional rider on a closed course." Action shots often lead to "monkey see, monkey do" on public lands which leads to resource damage and closed trails. (4) Urge them to initiate responsible riding programs in the schools. Include manufacturers, dealers, OHV clubs and environmental clubs. (5) Instead of being part of the problem, be part of the solution. (6) Mention outdoor clubs that you belong to. (7) Ask Tread Lightly to contact state and federal land managers to not just fine OHV violators but give them hours of community service – doing restoration work. (8) Mention locations where you

The Wicked Ways of Waste

While considering the beaver of Butte County, and particularly the ones that have established occupancy on Big Chico Creek at Chico, CA, by building controversial dams, I thought of the attributes various animals have that often place them on the hot-plate of existence.

Not only does an overpopulation of beaver cause some problems due to dam overflow into unwanted areas, but they can damage an ecosystem by gnawing down some major trees. They are smart and have found protected areas in parks, and they are so prolific you wonder how they were brought close to extinction at one time.

It is the fur that nearly caused the beaver's downfall. Prior to 1603, beaver were abundant in England and Europe, but the sudden popularity of beaver hats caused their annihilation for the expanding market. It's what happens when no conservation control is present.

After the colonization of America started, it was discovered that there were abundant beaver in the new land, and by 1670 the Hudson's Bay Company came into existence to deal in beaver as well as other fur-bearers. After depleting the eastern sector of America, Mountain Men took to the unknown wilds of the west in pursuit of beaver, their brigades a forerunner of the opening of the west. The French got in on it, and were killing 100,000 beaver annually in addition to the Hudson's Bay Company's 150,000 pelts. As a result of this onslaught, prices fell, as did the beaver population.

As in many methods of animal use, there is a lot of waste, just as the trait of waste and litter has followed mankind even unto today's society. In beaver, only the hair was used, shaved off with razors to be steamed into a felt, while the hide was boiled down for glue. In 1700, so many beaver skins were turned in that an astonishing three-quarters of the year's collection was burned to prevent glutting the European market, like grain crops are destroyed today to keep prices up.

Settlers and even Indians joined in the gutting of America's wildlife at that time. Deer were nearly wiped out after the Indians discovered that the hides brought good prices. There were no deer in my homeland of Northern Missouri in 1935. No beaver. And not many wolves, either. Only some shrewd wildlife management by the Missouri Conservation Department has created a recovery for most game species.

Of course, by that time the Passenger Pigeon was extinct, and buffalo reduced to a paltry population, often killed just for their tongues – or for no reason at all. Enforced conservation was a long time in coming. We all know the story to some degree. We know there was a lot of greed and waste. Unfortunately, give most of mankind free rein and

they will greedily take all they can of wild game or other natural resources. Overuse seems to be human nature when something is free, and it takes conservation laws to hold things together, as most people will obey laws (or potentially suffer the consequences).

We all remember too well the near-extinction of the great egret when another hat fad came into vogue in the 1880s. Egrets, with their great filmy plumes streaming from their backs, were especially targeted, and they fell in Florida and elsewhere by the millions. Just pluck the plumes and toss the rest! In fact, all songbirds were imperiled as ladies' hats were decorated with an array of previously living wild birds.

Only the establishment of the Audubon Society principles saved the birds. First, *Forest and Stream* magazine in 1886, under the auspices of George Bird Grindell, made an "Audubon" effort that was so well received, with 39,000 supporters, that Grindell's magazine was overwhelmed within three years and had to back off the project.

A group of little old ladies, furious at what the hat industry was doing to the bird population, resurrected the effort in 1899, establishing the Massachusetts Audubon Society, which soon included 16 states. The final version, National Audubon Society, came in 1940, shortened from the 1905 "National Audubon Society for the Protection of Birds and Animals." During that time, a warden was killed in Florida while protecting the egrets.

Before 1886, there were NO laws pertaining to birds, culminating with the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon. Billions of pigeons were dynamited at their roosts, and hogs were turned loose to feed on the carcasses. Songbirds were nearly exterminated in England for food before conservation laws came into effect. Thus the phenomena of waste in unmanaged social realms have revealed the Grim Reaper of nature, ready to swing the scythe of destruction whenever conservation order is sacrificed for momentary greed or a craving for personal popularity.

Call for Yosemite Valley Volunteers

By Suzanne Sharrock

The LeConte Memorial Lodge is a 104-year-old museum, library and visitor center operated by the Sierra Club in Yosemite National Park. We are looking for Sierra Club members interested in volunteering for one or two weeks between May 1 and September 28th. Hours of operation are from 10 am - 4 pm, Weds.-Sun, and 8 - 10 pm for weekend evening programs.

Volunteers enjoy free entrance to Yosemite National Park and free camping at the group campsite during the time they volunteer. For more information visit www.sierraclub.org/education/leconte/volunteering.asp or contact Bonnie Gisel, the LeConte Lodge curator, at leconte.curator@sierraclub.org or (209) 403-6676 (before May 1). After May 1 call (209) 372-4542.

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Sierra Club Warming Hut Sold

The Sierra Club no longer owns the 23.25-acre Warming Hut parcel (although the Club has access to the land pursuant to the terms of the conservation easement with the Truckee Donner Land Trust.) The sale of the Warming Hut parcel to the owners of Donner Ski Ranch was completed and recorded on December 29, 2007.

The warming Hut was built in the 1950s as a rope tow building with superstructure, motor and related rope tow facilities. In past years the rope tow transported skiers from the structure to the top of Signal Hill. It was designed by San Francisco architect George Homsey. The rope tow hasn't been used for the past 25 years but the building was used by the Sierra Club as a "warming hut" for cross-country ski activities. It has been out of service for years pending improvements required by Nevada County.

The Sierra Club decided to sell the Warming Hut and 23-acre parcel in 2006 but an anonymous party made a generous donation to the Donner Truckee Land Trust to purchase a

Conservation Easement from the Sierra Club. The conservation easement allows access by the public to the property and its trails in perpetuity. Guests of Clair Tappaan Lodge can continue to use the property as a gateway to the Tahoe National Forest. The easement also preserves the building and prevents logging except that needed for the health of the forest.

After the easement was purchased, the owners of the Donner Ski Ranch made an offer for the property, which abuts their ski area. Donner Ski Ranch has access to the parcel and building using their service roads and now owns contiguous parcels surrounding Signal Hill.

They have used the Warming Hut as a place for their skiers in the past and have had cooperative agreements with CTL on use and access to the property for years. The owners of Donner Ski Ranch have a history of buying historic properties for the purpose of restoring and preserving them. They have been good neighbors in the past and we look forward to

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